



OK TO  
ENTER  
file 3-26-2006

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE REQUESTED  
EXAMINING GROUP 1763  
PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 07553.0017

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
)  
Mitsuru ISHIKAWA et al. ) Group Art Unit: 1763  
)  
Application No.: 09/696,232 ) Examiner: A. Olsen  
)  
Filed: October 26, 2000 ) Confirmation No.: 5127  
)  
For: ETCHING METHOD ) Mail Stop AF  
)

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL**

In reply to the Final Office Action mailed November 7, 2005, the period for response having been extended to March 7, 2006, by a request for extension of one month and fee payment filed concurrently herewith, and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, Applicants propose that this application be amended as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims in this paper.

**Remarks** follow the amendment section of this paper.